

Administrator's Meetings Scheduled for August

The **GRAPEVINE** Marcella M. McCormack, Administrator Jody Price, Public **Information** Officer Reporters/ Columnists: Neil Remnant. Chris Williams. Lou Zauner

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Monday, August 20th at 10:00 am in Grant Hall

Popic is "Future Options for Construction: Residential ▲ Care Buildings at the Yountville Home to provide more private/semi-private rooms"

Introduction by CDVA Secretary Tom Johnson

Tuesday, August 28th at 10:00 am in Grant Hall

egular monthly Administrator/Home Member Meeting. Agenda to be announced at a later date.



Administrator Marcella M. McCormack

It may mean some slight inconvenience but the fin-



Living at the Veterans Home of California in Yountville

(707) 944-4542.

ANERICAN LECON DAYS

American Legion 9th Annual Veterans Home Golf Tournament

By Lou Zauner; photos by Glen Nock, Lou Zauner

Friday, August 3 – check-in time started at 7:30 am with Tee time at 8:00 am. Participating were 15 Home Members, 33 American Legion members and community participants for a 48-total turn-out. Home Members paid a modest \$10 entry fee and \$60 entry for all others – all profit contributing to the welfare of the Home.

The Tournament began with the shot-gun start – each four-some beginning at a different hole so that all finished at the same time, about 12:30 pm. Following the finish was a luncheon at the Main Picnic Ground served before the winner-awards were presented. The golfers and guests were treated to hot dogs, macaroni and tomato salads, chips, bananas and beverages of sodas and beer.

Stacks of wish-list gifts which were presented to the Home were placed on stage before presentation – clocks, a De Longhi deep fryer, a Kodak photo printer, Emerson combo-microwave oven, DVD and VCR players and Mr. Coffee coffee makers. Many thanks and sincere appreciation for these gifts from the American Legion Golf Tournament Committee.









CDVA Under Secretary Roger Bratigan started the tournament by throwing the first pitch.

American Legion Baseball

By Lou Zauner; photos by Bart Buechner, Lou Zauner

The 2007 American Legion sponsored L California Baseball Championship at the Veterans Home began Saturday, August 4th at Borman Field. The "A" Tournament which involved more than 100 players in the age 19and-undercategory ran from Saturday, August 4th through Tuesday, August 7th. The program presented players representing Area 1, Yolo; Area 2, San Mateo; Area 3, Merced; Area 4, Los Alamitos; Area 5, San Bernardino; Area 6,

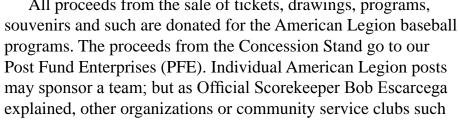
Tournament "B" followed Saturday, August 11 ending Tuesday, August 14 and again involved more than 100 players, but this time in the age "17-and-under" category. Tournament "B" represented Fair Oaks, San Mateo, Woodland, Chico, Oxnard, Stockton.

The American Legion National Baseball Program originated in 1925. It was introduced nationally in 1926 with the hope that through clean hard play on the diamond, a

> measure of sportsmanship, citizenship and

character might be absorbed by the nation's youth. It started at the Veterans Home in Yountville in 1963.

All proceeds from the sale of tickets, drawings, programs,



as Boosters, and also individuals, may be sponsors. Sponsorship for a team requires providing expenses for uniforms, equipment and travel. The American Legion National Organization arranges for regional travel and team maintenance expenses. The baseball playing abilities of these young men are remarkable; and sponsorship enables many of them to offer a pool of future talent for the professional teams.



Pete Rodriquez, Bill Dutton, Marcella McCormack.

Continued on page 5

AMERICAN LEGION DAYS

77th Annual American Legion Picnic Huge Success

By Lou Zauner; photos by Glen Nock, Neil Remnant, Lou Zauner

On Sunday, August 5 from 11 a.m. to after 1:30 pm – and in perfect weather – the Main Picnic Grounds was swollen with over 500 Home Members, American Legion Hosts, Staff and guests. As Post Commander David Wells stated, "I haven't seen a turnout like this in 10-years."

Adding to the enjoyment of the afternoon was entertainment by the "Miller Highlights Country Music" who brought couples forward to dance.



Beer, sodas and wine were available for thirsty guests while waiting in long lines for the sumptuous barbecue of hamburgers, hot dogs, lettuce salad and coleslaw, baked beans, potato salad and watermelon. Later, the very-busy Auxiliary Ladies delivered ice-cream cones throughout the crowd.

Continued on page 6

Baseball continued from page 4

The American Legion members, sponsors, coaches and managers are contributors to a sport that enriches the lives of many young people. Also commended should be the people who serve – flag attendants, grounds and stadium caretakers, umpires, scorekeepers, ticket, raffle and program attendants, and many others. The Veterans Home is proud to honor and host the American Legion Baseball Tournaments which means so much to so many.







AMERICAN LEGION DAYS

Picnic continued from page 5



Presenting the "ditty bags" are Jolene Norton and Donna Sooter.



Roy Nichols and R.T. Lee proudly sport their "Watermelon Man" t-shirts as they cut and serve the refreshing watermelon.

And, the always-generous gesture of presenting "ditty bags" to Home Members. The American Legion Auxiliary makes the bags – with great design and talent – from left-over cloth and then fills them with hats, cookies, candy, crackers, soap, shampoo, playing cards and more and more. Many thanks for this thoughtful gift from all of us who were lucky to be there in time.

Some two-hundred American Legion members and auxiliary were on hand to serve the enormous gathering. In the later afternoon, the officers gathered on the bandstand and were introduced to the audience. Home Administrator Marcella McCormack presented a well-deserved ovation to the American Legion Organization as "the Home's major donator."

The finale of the picnic was a pie-eating contest. The chocolate cream pies made additional dessert for seven entries ... if they hadn't had enough to eat.

A great afternoon. A great picnic. A great organization. Many thanks to the American Legion Posts who make this always-memorable annual event.



On behalf of the American Legion, Will Carney and Jack Flynn present Marcella Mc-Cormack with a large donation check for the Home.



AMERICAN LECON DAYS

















By Lou Zauner; photos by Glen Nock, Neil Remnant, Chris Williams, Lou Zauner

More than 50 Home Members and Staff presented two Talent Shows this year – the first held at Lincoln Theater, Tuesday July 31; and the second at the Hospital Recreation Area, Wednesday, August 1. Two hours each of great entertainment.

Billed as "Act I" for the first half of the show, there were actually 11 acts, each obviously well-rehearsed and performed with style. The opening numbers, *Service Medley* and *Presentation by*

Service featured the Jammers and Hill's Angels Wheelchair Drill Team. The final act before intermission was the Senior Chorale proved the members' talents with tunes beginning with Goodnight Irene and ending with La Paloma.

right:
Gil Delmenico
accompanied by
John Schwennesen.

below: Stacie Shewmake, Jessica Griffin, Kate MacPherson.











"Act II" consisted of 8 more acts beginning with *Alabama Jubilee* by Keith Chapman and Ellen Patterson. *Goodnight Sweetheart* was the appropriate musical ending performed by the entire company.

During the performance presented at the Hospital Recreation Area, an unexpected "star" appeared while Louis Mailberg was singing the *Anniversary Song*. Brandy, our therapeutic pet, wandered onto the stage and sat there ready

to join Lou in a duet. Do we now have a canine Jeanette Macdonald in debut? Lou gracefully acknowledged Brandy's presence by directing his serenade to her. It was a "doggone" good act. (Okay, you can groan now.)

Congratulations and thanks to Ellen Patterson, Rita Umphries, Kate MacPherson, Jim Wallace, the stage managers and technicians and, of course, all the talented performers that provided the Home with a fine show ... well timed, well-paced, well-



M.C. Rita Umphries

scheduled and wellplanned. Well, it was good!

The Veterans Home Talent Show gets better each year, so don't miss the next one. In fact, you might even think about participating. Watch for audition time.





Bart Buechner, John Schwennesen, Jim Wallace.







Ed Finerty sang "They Call the Wind Maria"



Ellen Patterson and Dan Goodman



Lou Mailberg accompanied by Ellen Patterson



Tango sensations Birdie Grell and Frank Burt.



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Living at the Veterans Home of California in Yountville

*: Paws with Brandy .

For Little OI' Me? ... Talent Show Performance in HRA

Because I couldn't go to Lincoln Theater for the Veterans Home Talent Show, they brought it to me the next day! "A command performance", Ellen Patterson called it, and I took advantage of it to get up-close and personal. I tried to stick close to Rita Umphries to see if I could pick up her talent as mistress of ceremonies. I might take that up some day.





Soon, however, I got caught up in all the fast-moving talent onstage. After each performance, I thought, "That's my favorite!" then, after the next act, I thought it again. Because the stage is smaller, the Jammers and the Senior Chorale, always a treat, were off to the side and I had to climb up on stage to enjoy them.

You know, dearies, how, after a wonderful performance, you come down

slowly and then relive it? I began to have deep thoughts, and just then, I ran into Rita in the hall outside. "Coming here to the Home was the best decision I ever made," she said. I thought of the people I know who agree with her; they're the ones having the most fun. My morning walker says, "All my life, I've wanted to learn to paint dogs,



and, now, I'm doing it!" So, when I went over all the wonderful performances, I thought particularly of Frank Burt. He's only been here about a year, and what did he do? He took up the tango and performed with his teacher,

Birdie Grell.

Now, that's the way to live, and I think I'll do that. The tango's a little fast for me, though. Maybe I'll take up the waltz. Look for me in next year's show. Uh-one and uh-two.



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after the spotlight highlighted each player. They bill themselves as a "jazz band," but there seems little they can't do.

When Marianna August took the stage (or left it, to warm her audience at closer quarters), the room sizzled. This lady can bring the standards, like Cole Porter, to an intimate new level.

The Hospital Recreation Area is a large, hollow space. This group made it inviting and cozy.

Bread and Roses presents a different group in each of their quarterly visits. An occasional disappointment would be expected. Haven't heard one yet.

Nobody Said Life is Fair By Chris Williams

Instrumentalists work hard; nobody harder than Jim Rothermel, who plays every instrument on the bandstand, and his group who appeared in the Hospital Recreation area. However, they brought a singer, Marianna August. My, oh my! There's a lady who knows how to work a room.

The group's repertoire includes standards and old favorites, and each member is a soloist as the audience appreciated with enthusiastic applause



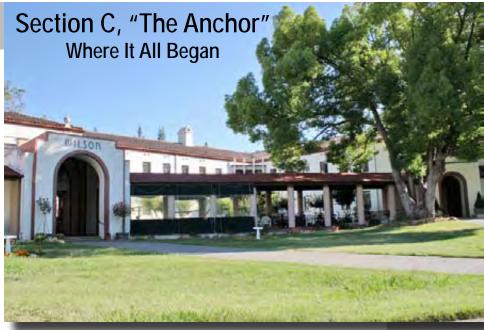


Semi-Annual Blood Drive

The regular blood collection brought twenty donors, both members and employees, to Grant Hall. Resident Donald Liddlecoat relaxes while Edna Pacheco supervises the collection. Look for the next semi-annual visit from Blood Centers of the Pacific.

By Chris Williams

For most residents, Cal Vet Hall of section C (Wilson Hall) was their landing place at the Veterans Home. Susan McDaniel guided them through orientation and calmed their fears while they awaited assignment to their permanent residence. This year, it was decided that re-assignment is unsettling, so new admissions go directly to their permanent section, and Cal Vet Hall is no more.





Dave Davis

Vikki Saari, new section leader of the more stable population, is aided by long-time deputy, Dave Davis. Rumor has it that Dave has been deputy so long that the building was constructed around him. Many old-timers head directly for Susan's office. "It's not easy replacing a legend," smiles Vikki. She and recently appointed social worker, John La Grave, have established immediate rapport and are "legends in the making."

Because of its position at the head of the Alameda, Section C has long been the center of Residential Services and Margie Patterson, its chief, has maintained her office there. When Dr. Alan Jessen was named Director of Residential Programs in the recent re-organization, he moved his office from Administration to one in "C." His duties take him everywhere, and only two people claim to have actually seen him in his office; scouting for Dr. Jessen has replaced birdwatching as a favored pastime.

Birding and gardening are priorities in C. Their grounds are beautifully kept, and we are all grateful for the bird feeders they have placed out by the

Continued on page 14



Vickki Saari and Margie Patterson



street. Counting finches at the feeder is one of the pleasures of passing by. Most residences have an additional reason to visit. Dispensing over-the-counter medications became impossible for the overworked staff at the Holderman pharmacy. Record-keeping consumes much of their time, so non-prescription items were moved out to a central location -- section C, of course. You need only drop by their first-floor dispensary on Tuesday or Thursday and ask for what you need. Anything from Artificial Tears eye drops to Zeasorb Powder (that's talcum). Couldn't be simpler.

The upgrading of parking at all the sections continues, and we are all grateful -- when it's over. It's been section C's turn to be 'fugitive parkers', now and their vehicles appear in odd places. Administra-

tion is using the summer to smooth parking problems, repair sidewalks, and construct bus shelters, one of which is rising in front of C. Let the rains begin.



Veterans Report

SDAY AND THURSDA 1:00 TO 3:00 pm

The Military's Largest Benefits Update

From Military.com Military.com connects over 8 million members to all the benefits earned in service to America. We cut the red tape between you and your military and veterans benefits. By negotiating discounts and keeping you connected to friends and mentors from the service, we help you make the most of your military experience. It is free to join and includes veterans and spouses.

House Passes Thank You Act

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 23, The Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007. The bill would establish a Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide monthly payments in the amount of \$1,000 to qualifying members of the United States Merchant Marines who served during World War II. H.R. 23 includes qualifying members of the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service. The Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund would be available only to all qualifying mariners who apply by Oct. 1, 2008.

"Relay For Life" Follow-up



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all employees and home members for supporting our efforts for the *American Cancer Society* so far this year. As you know, we have been trying to focus on year round activities to increase awareness about *Relay For Life* and raise as much money each year for *ACS* as we can. We truly appreciate your participation at our events.

Relay For Life was great this year. I want to express my thanks again to those who joined the team. Your support really WILL make a difference in the fight to find a cure. It was good to see all the family, friends and visitors we had at our campsite. And of course our campsite looked terrific! A special thanks to the Ferguson family, especially Robert who went the extra mile to make our campsite look so awesome. The flags just keep on multiplying each year!! Thanks to everyone who brought goodies for us to enjoy during the day and night. Special thanks to those of you who helped with set-up and take down, decorating the campsite, ringing the bell for our walkers and the many other things that people helped me with before, during and after Relay. I couldn't do this without your help.

The total money raised at the end of Relay was \$240,000.00. The approximate total of money that our team has raised so far for the American Cancer Society is over \$8,300.00! Way to go everyone!! The employee who raised the most in donations was Katrina Ferguson who raised \$630.00!! Member donations, cookbook sales, flashing blinkies and Silent Auction items helped to raise our totals during the event. I think I speak for everyone when I say, "A good time was had

by all!"

The opening ceremonies with the release of doves, Survivor Lap, and especially the lighting of the Luminarias makes one reflect about the effect that cancer has on all of us. Each year the American Cancer Society helps so many and we hope that they continue to make strides to find a cure for cancer.

So, that means that our efforts won't stop now. We had our final Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Sale on Tuesday August 14th from 11am to 3:00 pm. We extended the sale hours to give day shift and pm shift employees more opportunities to partake of the yummy ice cream (sorry noc shift staff). We are planning future bake/jewelry sales, raffles, etc. Stay tuned for more Relay For Life fundraising events!!

Thanks for your support, Cathy Vincent, Team Captain

"There is no finish line until we find a cure."



Luminarias are paper bags decorated with the names of cancer victims, survivors and others. A small candle is placed in each Luminaria. When the Luminarias are set up around the track and lit, the effect is spectacular. A slide show accompanied by music displays the images of those lost to cancer. It is a time to reflect and remember.



"Emotions" to be revealed at Dr. Miller's Seminar

By Lou Zauner

Staff Psychologist Dr. Sarah Miller will present another of her 1½ hour seminar programs on Friday, August 17 beginning at 10 am in Lee Lounge. The subject of "Emotions" is a continuance of her previous discussion "Reading Facial Expressions."

Doctor Miller recently returned to the Medical Staff at Holderman Hospital. She had served at the Home for two years from 1982 to 1984 and later during the 90's as a Mental Health Consultant.

Her seminars involve group participation, present fascinating information from the mental health profession and give you better understanding of yourself and others.

USDVA Inspection Coming

Surveyors from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA San Francisco Medical Center) will be at the Home the week of August 27, 2007 to conduct their annual State Home Inspection.

Ms. Ruth Patience-Midcap, Risk and Customer Service Manager, will be available to meet and discuss concerns with individual Home members on Tuesday, August 28, between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. To schedule an appointment, please call the office of Quality Assurance at 944-4830.

Jewelry Sale

Tuesday, September 4 Wednesday, September 5 Thursday, September 6

Rings, bracelets, earrings and necklaces will be available in gold, silver and diamond jewelry in the hallway to the Holderman Recreation Area. Don't miss this opportunity to shop early for presents or just to treat yourself with some beautiful jewelry.

Congrats "Relay For Life"

By Bart Buechner

Congratulations to the Veterans
Home Relay for Life team for
representing the Home July 28th at the
Napa Community College track with
spirit and enthusiasm!

Our "tent city" on the event site was one of the most colorful and active with great support for the walkers and runners. Thanks to "the Cathy's" (Vincent and Sapata), Katrina Ferguson (assisted by Bob), Carla Herren, Sharon Parda (registration) and the rest of the crew that worked so hard throughout the year to organize our team and create such a great showing. The poker walk, Ben and Jerry's days, etc. were not only fun and engaging events, they also helped to make the team's success this weekend happen.

The Napa Valley's Relay for Life event raises funds and awareness each year for the fight against cancer.

LINCOLN

Lincoln Theater Upcoming Events

Sat, Aug 19 3:00 pm

59th U.S. Army Band, part of the 40th Infantry Division of the California Army National Guard, is one of the oldest bands in the west, dating back to the 1st California Volunteers of 1861. Band performances include a wide variety of music from patriotic selections to the Big Band Era.

Sat, Aug 25 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm

Sun, Aug 26 3:00 pm **Defending the Caveman** - Written by Rob Becker. Defending the Caveman, the longest-running solo play in Broadway history, has now won the hearts of millions worldwide. With hilarious insights on feminism, masculinity & erogenous zones, it mines the common themes of relationships to go straight to the funny bone. "...Outrageously funny and surprisingly sweet exploration of the gender gap" – Chicago Sun-Times



Napa Valley Museum August Programs



Star-gazing in the NVM Meadow with Stuart Alexander, Retired State Park Ranger Ever wondered about the constellations in our Napa Valley nighttime sky? Join former park ranger Stuart Alexander for a stellar evening at the Napa Valley Museum! After a short presentation about summer constellations and night time star gazing, we'll head outside and identify constellations such as Cassiopeia and Subaru. Families are welcome. Please remember to bring a blanket. Free. Call 707.944.0500 for reservations

2007 Grapevine Deadlines and Distribution Dates

Please note new deadlines:

Month	Deadline	Distribution	
Aug	24	31	
Sep	7, 21	14, 28	
Oct	4, 19	12, 26	
Nov	2, 14, 30	9, 21	
Dec	14, 28	7, 21	

Alameda Elk Picnic

All Home Members are invited.

Saturday, August 18th at 11:00 am on the 1C/1D Patio at Holderman Hospital.



Residential Care Special Events

Signup available 2 weeks before event. Sign up early! Activities can fill quickly.

All activities are subject to change due to bus and driver availability.

Au	gust	2007	
_	_	_	

Date		Time	Event	Bus	Site	Signup
18	Sat	8:30 am	Barnum & Bailey Circus	MBS		Yes
		11:00 am	Alameda Elks Picnic		1C/1D	
19	Sun	10:00 am	Oakland A's & KC Royals	MBS		Yes
		3:00 pm	59th U.S. Army Band		LT	
20	Mon	10:00 am	Administrator's Meeting		GH	
22	Wed	12:30 pm	LeMelange Academy	MDR		Yes
25	Sat	7:30 am	Motorala Indy 300, Infineon			Yes
		3:00 pm	Defending the Caveman		LT	Yes
		8:00 pm	Defending the Caveman		LT	Yes
26	Sun	3:00 pm	Defending the Caveman		LT	Yes
27	Mon	8:15 am	San Francisco Ferry Trip	MBS		Yes
28	Tue	9:00 am	Ticket Tuesday		LL	
		10:00 am	Administrator's Meeting		GH	
30	Thu	6:00 pm	Pinochle Tournament		LL	Yes

Key – 1C/1D: Hospital 1C/1D patio; Bor: Borman Field; Chp: Chapel; GH: Grant Hall; GR: Games Room; HL: Hospital Lobby; HRA: Hospital Recreation Area; Lib: Lincoln Library, LL: Lee Lounge; LT: Lincoln Theater; MBS: Main Bus Stop; MDR: Main Dining Room; MPG: Main Picnic Grounds; SF: San Francisco; Tav: Tavern; VHC: Veterans Home Cemetery; VGC: Vintners Golf Course; VHL: Veterans Home Lanes; XI: Annex I; XII: Annex II; Ynt: Yountville; YVP: Yountville Veterans Park.

Bernard's Sports

By Bernard Madkins, Sports Director

On July 25th fifteen members of the Veterans Home Golfers went to Cypress Lake Golf Course at Travis Air Force Base. Each member teamed with a woman from Cypress Lake. The results of each of the three flights are as follows.



	Flight 3
First Place	Bernard Madkins & Judy Heise
Second Place	Joe Maynard & Leni King
	Flight 2
First Place	James Ducker & Mardy Berner
Second Place	Jim Hodge & Bonnie Fatzinger
	Flight 3
First Place	Ben Brown & Joyce Rohrer
Second Place	Al Meriano & Sammie Reid
Third Place	Bruce Holman & Sun Lee

For myself and all the other golfers, I want to say thank you to all the ladies for giving us such a great time and a fund day.

Fourth Place

Ed Hawkins & Pat Briscoe

MOVIE NIGHT IN GRANT HALL



Fri, Aug 17 - "Zodiac"

A new (2007) drama stars Jake Gyllenhall, Robert Downey Jr. and Mark Ruffalo. Based on the true story of still-unsolved 1970s serial killings in the San Francisco Bay Area, including Napa area. Newspapermen and S.F. detective become obsessed with the case which results in an above average film.

Aug 22 - "On Golden Pond"

A 1981 comedy-drama stars Henry Fonda, Jane Fonda Katharine Hepburn and Doug McKeon. Henry is brilliant in his last film feature as a crotchety retired teacher, angry at being 80 years old. Hepburn fine as his devoted wife. Jane plays Henry's alienated daughter. Henry Fonda, Hepburn and writer Thompson all won Academy Awards. ★★★1/2

Fri, Aug 24 - "Blood Diamond"



A new (2006) adventure-drama stars Leonardo Dicaprio, Jennifer Connelly and Djimon Hounsou. Takes place during 1999 Sierra Leone civil war and tells of recovering a rare pink diamond and rescuing a fisherman's son. An above average film.

Wed, Aug 29 - "Little Voice"

A 1998 British-U.S. drama stars Michael Caine, Jane Horrocks and Jim Broadbent. Caine is a sleazy talent agent and Broadbent as a low-life nightclub owner discover a shy girl who has the uncanny ability to sing like Judy Garland and other show-business greats. ★★★



A new (2006) film documentary featuring Ralph Nader, It shows why he is called a hero and crusader by some and a trouble-maker by others. He continues to be one of the most unusual and important social and political figures of our time.



One Of The Year's Best!"

LITTLE VOICE

MOVIE

GRANT HALL Theater doors open at 5:15 pm Wednesdays & Fridays

Special selected presentations at 5:30 pm

Feature Film begins at 6:00 pm

The Digital
Theater is
sponsored by the
Veterans
Remembrance
Committee,
The MW&R Fund
and AMVETS

Neil Remnant, Movie Coordinator





The Veterans Home Media Program gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the AMVETS Service Foundation in supporting KVET TV, the Grapevine, and the Veterans History Program.

GRAPEVINE

Veterans Home of California P.O. Box 1200 Yountville, CA 94599-1421

For Information about the Veterans Home call: 1-800-